

**Testimony of James DeLano**  
**Owner/Operator, Riverview Lodge RCH**

*Concerning*

*Section 12 of H.B. No. 5020 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS  
REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH.*

Public Health Committee Public Hearing, March 6, 2020

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, Senator Somers, Representative Petit, and Esteemed Members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding Section 12 of House Bill 5020- An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Regarding Public Health.

My name is James DeLano and I am the owner/administrator at Riverview Lodge Residential Care Home. Our home is located in Deep River and we have 31 residents who have made Riverview Lodge their home. We primarily serve folks with mental health issues. We offer a residence with supports such as medication administration, coordination of medical and mental health providers, housekeeping services, laundry, home cooked meals, etc.

I am testifying today to raise my concerns about Section 12 of HB5020 regarding discharges for residential care homes.

We are very concerned about changing the discharge process and how it will impact our home. It is already a very difficult process and we are concerned for our other residents who may be impacted when there is a disruptive and/or a public safety concern to our home and our residents and staff. If it gets to the point that we must discharge a person there are extreme circumstances that have come up and put the person at a risk to themselves and others. We need to keep our census full to pay our bills and operate. We are already under grave financial constraints without an increase to our rate in almost a decade. To be burdened with additional costs of potentially being represented to superior court, etc would be a way to difficult and we do not have staff to represent us in these proceedings and would need legal representation which we can not afford.

We have been able to successfully work out most discharges with the residents' providers, case managers, Ombudsman, etc to typically come to a mutually agreeable situation. If we need to enact an emergency discharge this would mean that we have exhausted all other options. When a resident is engaged in terrifying behaviors or sometimes illegal activities, etc., we are hard pressed to get the support we need in the community and need to have a venue to keep our home and residents safe.

Standardizing the process is imperative to maintaining a safe home where we can safely and effectively operate. We are unique as providers and deal with a mental health population and serve an important role for our communities. Please help us avoid another cumbersome costly process that we won't be able to go through to protect ourselves.

Sincerely,



James DeLano

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